

County housing more than 7,000 prisoners. Fairfax County can no longer safely house a prison. The communities surrounding the prison have grown too large and as they continue to press on the boundaries of the prison, the safety of the residents is being compromised.

Another important issue driving this legislation is the question of whether resources are available within the District of Columbia to operate a large prison. The District is not a State. It does not have the resources or the tax base to manage State functions such as operating prisons. In the past 10 years, the population of the prison has more than doubled while the budget has remained constant. The D.C. Department of Corrections is jamming prisoners into cells and dormitories that cannot correctly house them. We have heard reports of unsafe housing practices at the Lorton facility, where high security prisoners are being kept in dormitory style facilities. We have also heard reports of improper safety procedures, where there are not enough guards to correctly and safely monitor the prison. The Lorton prison has literally become a power keg with too many prisoners in too little room with too little supervision. We should not and cannot wait for an incident to occur before we act. We should not put our constituents who live near the prison or who work at the prison at such risk.

In the mid-1980's, Jack Anderson wrote a column calling the Lorton prison a "finishing school" for criminals. Since that time, the problem has become worse. The D.C. Department of Corrections cannot afford to offer even the most basic rehabilitation services. Inmates who leave the system are no better than when they entered. In many cases, they are worse off. It is no coincidence that on the same day last month, articles ran in the newspapers reporting the cancellation of the drug treatment program in Lorton and the arrest of a guard trying to bring crack cocaine into the complex.

It is simply unacceptable for us to allow this situation to continue. Our communities deserve to be free of crime, not subject to criminals who continue to move in and out of the system. The inmates themselves should be given the tools to cure their addictions and begin their lives anew, free of crime. The current situation does little to deter or prevent crime or recidivism. With this legislation, we have the opportunity to move the District's prisoners into a prison system which rehabilitates inmates, treats drug abuse, and breaks the cycle of crime and recidivism. We must seize that opportunity.

This has been and will continue to be a true bipartisan effort. The legislation we are introducing combines the best pieces of previous efforts and improves upon them. It offers a rational and realistic method for closing the facility that does not penalize the District of Columbia. It establishes the mechanism for the local community to determine the future of the property. Through the Commission that this legislation establishes, the local community can ensure that the area's open spaces are kept and the impact on local traffic is minimized.

We have an historic opportunity to work together and close the Lorton facility. We must take advantage of this opportunity.

[Press Release, Jan. 9, 1995]

MORAN, WOLF, DAVIS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CLOSE LORTON PRISON

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, U.S. Representatives Jim Moran, Frank Wolf and Tom Davis introduced legislation to close the Lorton Correctional Complex and relocate the current inmates to existing federal prisons.

"This year, we have a real opportunity to resolve the issue of the prison at Lorton," Moran said. "Today, the Lorton Correctional Complex is a 3,000 acre site in suburban Fairfax County housing more than 7,000 prisoners. In the last decade, the communities surrounding the prison have grown larger. The safety of the residents is being compromised—the prison must be closed."

The legislation calls for an eleven member commission that would oversee the closing of Lorton and allow those concerned about development of the property to have a voice in the process. Many Lorton residents fear that if the facility is closed, it will be replaced with 3,000 acres of houses, roads and traffic that will choke the area with congestion. Moran explained, "I understand their concerns, but I do not think that we should continue an intolerable situation because we fear the alternative."

Rep. Moran had introduced legislation during the 103rd Congress that would turn control of Lorton over to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He feels that this legislation, introduced by all three Northern Virginia legislators, combines the best pieces of previous efforts and improves upon them. "This legislation offers a rational and realistic method for closing the facility that does not penalize the District of Columbia and establishes a mechanism for the local community to determine the future of the property," Moran said. "This is an historic opportunity to work together to close this facility. We must take advantage of it."

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Autism Society of America on its 30th anniversary. The timing of this tribute is no accident. This week, January 9-15, is National Autism Awareness Week, and no organization has done more to promote awareness of autism than the Autism Society of America.

The mission statement of the society reflects its commitment to the autism population:

The Autism Society of America exists to promote lifelong access and opportunity for all individuals within the autism spectrum and their families, through education, advocacy, the promotion of research and increased public awareness, to be fully participating, including members of their community.

In 1994, the national office of the society responded to over 12,000 requests from parents, relatives, teachers, doctors, service providers, and professionals wanting information on topics like education, research, programs, laws, and family-coping strategies—all provided free of charge. Each week, the national office handles over 200 telephone calls on its toll-free line from parents and professionals wanting information, advice, and advocacy.

With over 200 chapters nationwide, run by parent volunteers, caregivers, parents, and family members are offered much-needed information, referrals, and support.

In addition to these efforts, the Autism Society of America also runs mail order bookstores housing the largest collection of classic and contemporary works on autism; annually publishes six issues of the *Advocate*, a comprehensive national newsletter on the latest developments in the area of autism; and sponsors an annual conference at which experts and parents from all across the country join for 4 full days of seminars, presentations, workshops, and research findings.

Finally, the Autism Society of America has been a persistent voice on Capitol Hill, advocating for increased Federal commitment to biomedical research. Last year, the society successfully worked with the National Institutes of Health to arrange for the first-ever workshop on autism, which is scheduled for this spring.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe National Autism Awareness Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Autism Society of America for its 30 years of service.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE H. ROBINSON

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, a highly respected employee of the Small Business Administration, Mr. George H. Robinson, will be retiring after 31 years of devoted public service to the SBA and the small business community. The exemplary career of Mr. Robinson, the Assistant Administrator for Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Compliance since 1974, is most deserving of the praise and recognition of this body. His staunch advocacy and leadership in the struggle for efficiency and fairness in Government service has made a difference to countless people, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to work and achieve and advance according to their abilities and accomplishments.

George Robinson has displayed such skill and devotion all his life. A graduate of Oberlin College, he began his career with the Urban League, working to break down racial discrimination in employment by promoting fair employment legislation on the State and city levels and by forging friendships and partnerships with corporate officials.

As chairman of the Northern New Jersey March on Washington Committee in 1941, George and others persuaded Franklin Roosevelt to establish the wartime Fair Employment Practices Commission. His work for this cause caught the attention of the Wright Aeronautical Corp. where he was brought on to help direct the hiring and supervision of 8,000 minority workers.

It was this commitment to the cause of equal opportunity and the chance to help create jobs in economically depressed areas through the Area Redevelopment Act that brought George Robinson to the SBA in the

early 1960's. That commitment remains to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I think you will agree with me that we are indeed losing someone special with the retirement of Mr. Robinson. His skill and devotion and love for his work are qualities we would all do well to emulate. I congratulate George H. Robinson on a job well done.

HONORING DOUGLASS W. WILHOIT, JR.

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant who has recently left distinguished public service in the 11th Congressional District of California. Douglass W. Wilhoit, Jr., of Stockton has personified the highest ideals of openness, honesty and courage as a San Joaquin County supervisor for the past 16 years.

His support as an elected official resulted in re-election every 4 years without opposition, and he has achieved the respect of his fellow supervisors through four terms as chairman of the board of supervisors.

Mr. Wilhoit, who retired at the end of December, was elected for several prestigious assignments while a county supervisor, including the 1994 presidency of the California State Association of Counties. He also was chosen at the State level by three Governors for leadership positions dealing with job training, corrections, and criminal justice.

Mr. Wilhoit assumed leadership positions locally in such areas as criminal justice, youth programs, parks and recreations, aviation, and public works. His community involvement spans a wide range of service, such as the United Way, Boys and Girls Club, American Cancer Society, Rotary International, Boys Scouts, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to his election to the county board, he served the community for 12 years as a Stockton police officer.

Mr. Wilhoit has been recognized through the years with honors as "Who's Who in California," "Outstanding Young Man of America," "Community Leaders of America," and a Paul Harris Rotary Fellowship.

Please join with me in recognizing Douglass W. Wilhoit as a great American who has served his community as the consummate public servant for more than a quarter of a century.

INTRODUCTION OF DISASTER TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proposing legislation that would permit disaster victims to deduct 100 percent of their casualty losses when calculating their Federal personal income taxes.

I first introduced this bill in the last Congress after seeing the destruction caused by the Northridge earthquake and after talking with

hundreds of its victims. I realized then that present tax law is clearly inadequate in disaster of this magnitude. The Tax Code acknowledges that it is appropriate to deduct uninsured property losses, but the deduction doesn't kick in until losses exceed 10 percent of adjusted gross income.

Since this legislation was first introduced, I have received hundreds of phone calls and letters from people who are still reeling from the earthquake. Nearly a year has passed, but victims are still finding it difficult to find the money to repair the damages suffered.

The legislation I am introducing would particularly help middle-class taxpayers who suffer substantial damage, but who earn too much to qualify for Federal grants and face tens of thousands of dollars in repair bills.

The bills would apply only in cases of federally declared disasters. When an emergency is great enough to prompt the President to declare a disaster and to determine that aid from the Federal Government is warranted, then stricken taxpayers surely deserve this break on their Federal income taxes.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this legislation would cost approximately \$22 million annually.

Congress appropriated more than \$8.6 billion to help defray the estimated \$15 to 20 billion cost of the earthquake. The estimated revenue loss to the Treasury is very small compared to the significant middle class tax relief this bill would provide to tens of thousands of taxpayers who have to dip into their savings or go into additional debt to repair their homes.

The bipartisan task force on disasters, appointed by the leadership of the House to recommend improvements in the Nation's disaster strategy recognized the importance of improving the ability of individuals, businesses, and communities to recover from disasters by providing resources needed to rebuild. The task force's report included a recommendation that Congress consider this legislation.

Every dollar taxpayers have to send to Washington is a dollar not spent in their devastated local communities. They could spend that money putting contractors and builders to work, or they could use it in local stores to buy items to replace damaged possessions.

It's both good economic policy and good sense to put every possible dollar to work to help ravaged areas rebound from disaster. I will continue to work very hard to pass this important tax relief legislation.

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND MANDATORY COVERAGE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL LAW TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 9, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to add a new section to the act that would require the Attorney General to call for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations that Justice Department attorneys engaged in prosecutorial misconduct, corruption, or fraud. I introduced identical legislation in the last Congress.

The independent counsel provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 require the

Attorney General to conduct a preliminary investigation when presented with credible information alleging criminal wrongdoing by high ranking executive branch officials. If the Attorney General finds that further investigation is warranted or makes no finding within 90 days, the act requires the Attorney General to apply to a special division of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the appointment of an independent counsel. The act also gives the Attorney General of the United States broad discretionary authority to seek the appointment of independent counsel with regard to individuals other than high executive branch officials. However, the Attorney General is not required to do so in such cases.

My bill would amend the act to treat allegations of misconduct, corruption or fraud on the part of Justice Department attorneys in the same manner as allegations made against high ranking Cabinet officials. In effect, the amendment would require the Attorney General to follow the procedures of the independent counsel law when presented with specific and credible allegations of criminal wrongdoing on the part of Justice Department attorneys. My goal is to ensure that, when there is credible evidence of criminal wrongdoing in such cases, these cases are aggressively and objectively investigated.

I am very concerned over the growing number of cases in which Justice Department attorneys have been accused of misconduct, corruption or fraud. In several cases I have personally investigated, innocent men fell victim to overzealous or corrupt Federal prosecutors. The Justice Department has a poor record of aggressively and objectively investigating these cases. The only way to uncover all the facts and guarantee that innocent lives are not destroyed, is to have a truly independent counsel appointed to investigate. The American people expect that the Justice Department—more than any other Federal agency—conduct its business with the highest level of ethics and integrity. Unfortunately, there are instances where this is not always the case. It is imperative that the Independent Counsel Act be amended to require that allegations of criminal misconduct on the part of Justice Department attorneys be treated with the same seriousness as allegations made against high ranking cabinet officials.

I hope to work with the members of the Judiciary Committee to have the measure reviewed and approved as soon as possible. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, the text of which is as follows:

H. R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL.

Section 592(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting "; or", and by adding after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) the Attorney General, upon completion of a preliminary examination under this chapter, determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that—

"(i) attorneys of the Department of Justice have engaged in prosecutorial misconduct, corruption, or fraud, and